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GOSFORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Northumberland

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the


year ended 31st December, 1961

Gosforth Urban District Council.

*With the Compliments of the
Medical Officer of Health.*

*Council Offices,
Gosforth,
Northumberland.*

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Senior Public Health Inspector

George Stenger, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health
Inspector.

Neil Scott, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerks :-

Mrs. C.E. Raine

Miss W. Oliver.

1.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1961.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for 1961 on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District in that year.

There was again a small increase in the estimated mid year population to 26,600 from 26,320 in 1960.

The vital statistics of the year showed little change from those of the previous year, the birth, death rate and natural increase of the population being similar, although there was a slight increase in the number of still births.

The infant mortality rate was slightly higher than in the previous year; all seven deaths of infants under one year of age were due to ante and peri-natal causes or congenital abnormalities.

An encouraging feature was that no death from an infective cause occurred for the second successive year.

No maternal death was registered in 1961; there was one in 1960 and none in the previous three years.

The number of deaths from vascular lesions of the nervous system showed little significant change while those of residents from coronary disease and angina increased slightly in total due to a rise in female deaths in this classification.

There was a decrease of 9 in the total number of deaths of residents from malignant neoplasm of 'all sites' including those of the stomach, breast and of all 'other sites', and also a very slight decrease in those from malignant neoplasm of the lungs and bronchi.

Deaths from diabetes rose from one in 1960 to 4 in 1961, and those from pneumonia by 7 in residents of the district.

A noteworthy feature was that deaths from road accidents dropped to 2 from 5 in 1960, both deaths were of young men killed while riding motor cycles.

It is disturbing, however, that deaths from accidents in the home increased sharply to 7 from 3 in the previous year. In addition there were 9 deaths in the hospitals in both years, of elderly people already suffering from other diseases.

The home accidents were mainly among elderly people and the very young. Clearly, teaching on home safety must be stepped up. The problem is chiefly with the aged who become unable to cope with ordinary home hazards and require discernment and help from those around them.

The mortality rate for Tuberculosis closely approximated the national rate whilst the incidence of the disease showed a very slight increase, mainly in males in the 45-55 age group.

The number of inward transfers of tuberculosis to the district continued as has been the case for the last few years.

As expected the bi-ennial increase of measles occurred in 1961, 467 cases being notified compared with 458 in 1959. It now seems likely that protection against the disease may become available in the not too distant future; this would be a great help in its gradual diminution.

Apart from notifications of measles, 63 notifications of other infectious diseases were received making a total of 532 notifications in the year.

There was a slight increase in incidence of both whooping cough and scarlet fever, all cases, however, were of a mild type.

Up to December sporadic cases of sonne dysentery were notified but during that month cases were notified in several separate families involving considerable investigation and follow-up of family contacts and cases.

A case of paratyphoid fever in a child occurred in the Spring and two other children in the family were found to be positive excretors.

The home conditions of several elderly persons were investigated under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, but fortunately no formal action was necessary.

It is disappointing to report that by the end of 1961 no progress was made towards a smoke control area, but it is hoped that a commencement will be made in the future. Some preparatory work was done in the north-west part of the district with this in view as although there is little industry there is a fair amount of domestic smoke.

One complaint was dealt with under the Noise Abatement Act which came into force in October, 1960. Work continued steadily under the Milk and Dairies Regulations as shown in the detailed section of the report.

3.

The number of complaints of alleged extraneous matter in food diminished to 3 in 1961 from 9 in 1960.

The work of the Old Peoples Voluntary Welfare Committee continued throughout the year; the system of friendly visiting was maintained and the chiropody service noticeably expanded.

The Meals on Wheels Service run by the Womens Voluntary Service continued its useful work.

The many and varied activities of the Health Department continued smoothly, the advent of Mr. Scott, the new additional Health Inspector in June being a very considerable help.

May I express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their active interest in the work of the Department and to my colleagues in other departments of the Council for their co-operation.

I also wish to express my appreciation of the excellent work and application of Mr. Stenger, Senior Public Health Inspector, especially when he was without an assistant, and to Mrs. Raine and Miss Oliver for their work throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. HOPPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

I. VITAL STATISTICS.POPULATION.

The Urban District covers a small area but is very compact. It is largely residential in character, being a dormitory of Tyneside where the majority of the inhabitants work. There are a number of business premises and offices, but few industries.

The Registrar General's estimated mid year population for 1961 was 26,600, an increase of 280 on the estimated population of 1960.

During the last four years the population has had a steady annual increase amounting to 1,600.

BIRTHS.

For the second year in succession there was a slight decrease in the total number of births from 406 in 1960 to 402, (217 male and 185 female); the decline was entirely in female births.

Illegitimate births numbered 15 compared with 13 in the previous year. Illegitimate births have shown an increase in each of the last three years,

The birth rate for the Urban District (corrected for age and sex distribution) was 16.0 per thousand population while that for England and Wales was 17.4. The birth rate for 1960 was 16.3 per thousand population. In each of the last two years the birth rate for the Urban District has been a little lower than the national rate.

There were 9 still births in the year compared with 4 in 1960 and 11 in 1959. The still birth rate for the district was 21.9 per thousand total live and still births and that for the country was 18.7.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths was similar in both years, being 379 (180 male and 199 female) in 1961 and 374 in 1960.

94 deaths of long term residents in the St. Nicholas Hospital were included in the total so that there were 285 deaths of residents of the district compared with 289 in the previous year.

The death rate (corrected) for the Urban District was 12.5 per thousand population while that for England and Wales was 12.0. The rates for the previous year were 12.3 per thousand population for the Urban District and 11.5 for the country generally.

NATURAL INCREASE IN THE POPULATION.

Excluding the deaths in the chronic hospital, the excess of births over deaths was 117 compared with the same figure in 1960 and 157 in 1959. The natural increase in the population has kept up to a more satisfactory level in the last four years after the extremely low figure of 66 in 1957.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Seven deaths of infants under one year of age were registered compared with 5 in the previous year. Six of these deaths were of infants under one week old and were due to ante and peri-natal causes, prematurity being a dominant factor. The other death was of a baby of three months and was due to congenital abnormalities.

For the second successive year there was no death from an infective cause.

The infant mortality rate for the Urban District was 17.4 per thousand live births compared with 21.4 for England and Wales. The previous year's figures were 12.3 per thousand live births for the district and 21.7 for the country.

The infant mortality rate this year was slightly higher than in 1960. The rate has improved the last two years and it is an encouraging feature that infection as a cause of infant death has been virtually wiped out. The hard core of congenital defects and prematurity still remains and shows the necessity for meticulous ante and peri-natal care and for further research.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that there was no death this year of a mother due to pregnancy or child birth. In 1960 there was one such death.

The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales was 0.33 per thousand live and still births.

INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

In the classification of vascular lesions of the nervous system 56 deaths were registered, 19 of them being of long term residents of the hospital, leaving 37 deaths of residents of the district. In 1960 the total number of deaths in the classification was 44, 6 being hospital residents, leaving 38 deaths of residents of the district.

Grouping heart and circulatory diseases in one classification there was a total of 171 deaths compared with 168 the previous year. The deaths in the hospital were 44 in 1961 and 48 in 1960. Deaths of residents in this classification were 127 in 1961 and 120 in 1960. The increase among residents of deaths from coronary disease and angina which was noted last year continued in 1961 especially in females.

A welcome decrease took place in the number of deaths registered from malignant neoplasms, a total of 53 including 5 hospital deaths compared with 63 the previous year, which included 6 deaths of hospital residents. There was therefore a decrease of 9 in the total number of deaths of residents from malignant disease.

Deaths registered from malignant neoplasm of the stomach, the lungs and of the breast decreased by 2 in each group. There was a decrease of 5 in those classified as of 'other sites'.

Deaths from malignant neoplasm of the lungs and bronchi numbered 9, one being a hospital death, compared with 11 in 1960 which included one hospital death. During the last two years there has been a very slight decrease in deaths in this classification as compared with the large number of 16 in 1959. Nevertheless this figure is high. Eight of the deaths in 1961 were of males between 47-69 years of age. Two had a history of previous lung disease, 2 were engaged in heavy industry and two were railway porters; two were known to be heavy cigarette smokers.

One death of a boy of six years from leukaemia was registered. There has been no death from this cause for two years; there were 4 in 1958.

Deaths from diabetes increased to 4 from one in 1960. There were also 4 in 1959.

38 deaths were registered in the grouping of respiratory diseases generally compared with 30 in the previous year, the increase being entirely in those from pneumonia.

There was one death from influenza as in 1960, a much lower figure than in 1959 when influenza was prevalent and 9 deaths were registered.

It was a welcome feature of the year that deaths from motor vehicle accidents which had risen sharply to 5 in 1960, dropped to 2 in 1961. Both deaths were of males; one a boy of 16 sustained a fractured skull in a collision with a bus and the other, a man of 51 sustained multiple injuries in a collision with a motor lorry, both while riding motor cycles.

7.

Deaths classified as from other accidents considerably increased to 16 from 12 in 1960. Nine occurred in hospitals and institutions from fractures following falls in elderly persons ranging from 73 to 93 years of age. All were suffering from chronic diseases.

The seven other accidents were of residents of the district. Two were of elderly women aged 85 and 90 years respectively, from extensive burns due to their nightdresses catching fire. Three were due to carbon monoxide poisoning; two to the inhalation of coal gas, one woman of 59 years being overcome whilst attempting to light the gas oven, and the other a man of 47, in which case there was insufficient evidence to establish the circumstances under which the gas was turned on. The other death was that of a man of 91 years who was trapped in a fire at his residence.

The death of a young child of $1\frac{1}{2}$ years was due to electrocution, when the child came into contact with the framework of an electric fire where there was a faulty wall plug.

Yet another death from an accident in the home was of an elderly man of 88 years who was accidentally drowned in his bath.

The sharp rise in the number of accidents in the home, especially of the very young and of elderly people is a very disturbing feature and clearly shows the need for further work in this field.

There was one death from suicide in the year compared with one death from this cause in 1960 and 5 in 1959.

II. TUBERCULOSIS.

Two deaths (female) from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered as in the previous three years. Both deaths were in the older age groups being 64 and 71 years respectively.

The mortality rate for respiratory tuberculosis was 0.075 per thousand population for the Urban District while for England and Wales it was 0.065.

No death was registered from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis rose slightly to a total of 16 (7 male and 9 female) 2 being notifications (one male and one female) from the St. Nicholas Hospital, thus leaving 14 notifications of residents of the district compared with 12 in 1960. There were 17 notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis among residents of the district in 1959.

The figures this year conformed generally with the trend of recent years throughout the country of a gradual decrease in incidence of the disease and of greater hope in treatment among the younger age groups.

The highest incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis was in males of 45-55 years of age, 4 cases being notified. In females the incidence was spread over the age groups of 20 to 65 years and there was one in the 15 to 20 years age group.

The welcome drop in incidence of the disease in females from 25 to 35 years which was noted the previous year continued in 1961, three cases being notified in 1961, 2 in 1960 and 5 in 1959.

Three cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified (one male and two females) and one female was returned to the register. In 1960 there was one notification (female) of non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The total number of inward transfers to the district in the course of the year was 12, 10 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary, compared with 15 last year.

During the last few years there has been a steady flow of transfers to the district which now number 103, and this together with the yearly primary notifications keeps the T.B. Register to a fairly high level.

Patients attend the Chest Clinic, New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, under the care of the Senior Chest Physician, and admission to the sanatoria of the region and to Walker Gate Hospital is, when required, almost immediate.

The Chest Clinic keep the family contacts under review and home visiting is done by the Health Visitors, special attention being given to children 'at risk'. B.C.G. vaccination is given to these children and to the older age groups at school with the parents consent.

As in previous years the Council paid particular attention to tuberculous families living in unsuitable housing conditions. In 1961 no case required re-housing, though in 1960 seven families with a tuberculous background were re-housed.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the Urban District on the 20 and 21st April. A total of 337 persons attended, 101 male and 236 females. Three were referred to the Chest Clinic for further investigation. The Unit last visited the district in October, 1959. It is anticipated that visits will be paid about every 18 months.

III. GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

A total of 532 cases of infectious disease was notified in the year compared with 40 in 1960, and 539 in 1959. The total incidence closely approximated that of 1959 which was the last year of bi-ennial increase of Measles.

Measles. 467 cases of Measles were notified. There was only 4 in the whole of 1960 but 458 in 1959.

The pattern of bi-ennial increase was again very faithfully followed as the younger children became at risk. The notifications were mainly of young children of up to six years of age, 10 being under one year.

Notifications of Measles commenced to rise in the early part of the year, the months of highest incidence being March when 153 cases were notified and April with 129 notifications. The incidence decreased in May with a secondary rise to 64 notifications in June. After that there was a sharp fall in July and from then onwards to the end of the year only one notification.

Whooping Cough. A slight increase took place in the number of notifications of Whooping Cough from 9 in 1960 to 19 in 1961. There were 17 in 1959.

The months of highest incidence were March with 5 notifications, and April with 7. Two notifications were received of children under one year of age.

The graph which was commenced in 1959 showing the incidence of Whooping Cough and the number of children receiving protection against the disease has been continued.

The incidence of the disease remained at a low level and the cases were chiefly mild in type. The number of children receiving protection each year continues at a steady pace.

Scarlet Fever. There were 10 notifications during the year compared with 7 and 8 the previous two years.

They occurred sporadically chiefly during the second quarter of the year and were all of a very mild type with transient rash.

Dysentery. The number of notifications of Dysentery also slightly increased this year, 18 cases in 10 families being notified. In addition, several further positive excretors with mild and transient symptoms, one convalescent and three symptomless excretors, were discovered. Up to December the occasional case had been confined to a single family, usually a mother and one or more children, but during December 5 cases occurred in separate families and in addition there were 6 positive excretors.

Graph showing incidence of Whooping Cough in the Urban District and the number of children who received protection against the disease over a ten year period.



Line A shows the number of cases of Whooping Cough each year
 Line B shows the number of children who received prophylactic injections against Whooping Cough each year.

Every effort was made to clear these families as soon as possible to prevent further spread. Stool specimens of these and other suspected cases involved the bacteriological examination of 104 specimens. Treatment by the family doctors and surveillance by the Health Department continued until all were clear, three by the end of December and the others in the early part of 1962.

Food Poisoning. For the third successive year no notification of Food Poisoning was received. One case of Salmonellosis due to *Salmonella Paratyphoid B* occurred in April in a young boy aged 4 years who was admitted to a Newcastle hospital on April 27th where the diagnosis was made. From there he was transferred to the Walker Gate Hospital on the 29th April. Discharge from hospital took place on May 22nd after appropriate treatment and clearance of the stools.

On investigation of the family, an older brother aged 6 years was found to be suffering from a milder degree of illness due to the same organism. A sister aged 8 years was discovered to be excreting the organism but was without clinical symptoms. All three excretors were kept under surveillance until stool specimens were clear.

Primary and Virus Pneumonia. Thirteen cases of primary pneumonia were notified mainly in the winter and spring compared with 11 in 1960 and 28 in 1959.

Influenza. As in former years the general practitioners of the district kept watch on any increase in the prevalence of influenza as distinct from the common cold and its complications.

Acute Poliomyelitis. For the second year in succession no notification of this disease was received.

Infectious Hepatitis. In early May it was found that several children living on the Regent Farm Estate were suffering from infectious hepatitis. The illness occurred among older children from 7 to 12 years of age in three families.

Investigation was made to check the injection history of these children but no definite link could be established. The illness seemed to be an acute infection probably spread by personal contact by way of droplet infection.

From the end of September to mid October further cases occurred among children of 7 to 11 years of age attending a school in the district and one of the mothers contracted the illness. As a precautionary measure the mother of a child suffering from infectious hepatitis was kept away from working with the school meal service for a short time while her child was ill.

IV. HOUSING.

Since 1944 a total of 1647 houses have been erected by the Council, 72 being completed in 1960. In addition 89 new houses were privately built in the course of the year.

These figures have been kindly supplied by Mr. Wyld, the Engineer and Surveyor.

At December 31st the number of applications for Council houses was 865 compared with 813 in 1960, and 902 in 1959.

The Housing Officer has kindly furnished these figures.

V. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

Section 47. Removal to suitable premises of persons suffering from grave chronic disease or being elderly and infirm and living in insanitary conditions and are in need of care and attention.

Investigations were made in January into the circumstances in which two elderly ladies were living. The elder of the two aged 80 years was frail and bedfast and removal to hospital became desirable. The patient was admitted to hospital on February 7th through the family doctor. The other sister went to live with relatives in Sunderland.

The elderly man who was removed to the Thomas Taylor Homes on December 21st, 1960, under a Court Order, was much improved in health and seemed comfortable and fairly settled. He agreed to stay voluntarily in the home for a further six months after the expiration of the Order and has remained in the home ever since.

In the course of the year 32 visits were paid by officers of the Department under this Section in keeping some supervision of the conditions in which three elderly persons were living.

Section 50. Burial or Cremation of the Dead. It was found necessary to make arrangements for the burial of a person resident in the district. A considerable proportion of the expenses involved was recovered from the estate of the deceased.

VI. MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949, FOOD HYGIENE, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Since January 1st 1961 samples of milk other than those of producer retailer were taken by the County Health Inspector.

The sampling of Tuberculin Tested (farm bottled) milk showed that 97% of milk satisfied the test; this is a considerable increase in the number of satisfactory samples on the figure of 83.3% in 1960 and 69% in 1959.

Twenty-one samples of ice cream were submitted for examination by the Methylene Blue test. Two samples from one producer whose premises are situated in the City and County of Newcastle upon Tyne were placed in provisional grade 4. Suitable action was taken in regard to the unsatisfactory samples.

During the year 480 visits were paid by Officers of the department to the various food premises in the district. No formal action was necessary in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations. Advice on food hygiene was given to the staffs of the premises at the time of visiting.

In 1960 nine complaints were received alleging the presence of extraneous matter in food, but in 1961 the number of such complaints was reduced to 3. Legal proceedings were instituted in two cases and fines were imposed.

VII. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

It was hoped that progress would be made this year towards the formation of at least one smoke control area. Some preliminary work was done in a portion of the north-west part of the district with this in view.

VIII. NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960.

Investigation was made in connection with an alleged noise nuisance and a satisfactory solution found.

IX. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Out of a total of well over nine thousand premises in the district there are less than a dozen premises where the sewage from those premises does not discharge into a public sewer. The disposal of sewage in these isolated instances is by means of small installations consisting of a septic tank and filter bed, the resultant purified effluent being discharged into adjacent watercourses.

It is hoped that in the not too distant future further development in the district will enable some of these premises to be connected directly to a public sewer.

X. HEALTH EDUCATION.

Publicity material in the form of posters was displayed at salient points in the district particularly at the Child Welfare Clinic and the library at different times in the year. Leaflets were also distributed in the district. Special emphasis was placed on publicity material on accidents in the home. Several talks on health subjects were given to women's organisations and at the schools.

XI. MORTUARY.

In the course of the year 21 bodies were placed in the mortuary and 20 post mortems carried out. In 1960, 13 bodies had been placed in it and 9 post mortems carried out.

XII. WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE.

The Old People's Welfare Committee which was first started in 1955 continued its useful work, and made steady progress during the year.

The number of friendly visitors was maintained an increase of to 49 from 46 in spite of occasional resignations which were mainly due to pressure of other commitments or to ill health. There were 144 old people on the list and 124 houses were visited.

The Chiropody Service expanded, grants being received from the County Council as from April 1960. Two chiropodists are engaged part time and give treatment either at their surgeries or at the patient's homes.

A total of 443 old people received treatment from July 1960 to the 30th June, 1961, 121 being domiciliary visits.

The Meals on Wheels Service run by the Womens Voluntary Service continued to supply meals twice a week to 24 old people who were unable to cook for themselves. A small increase in this work is being contemplated.

The care of the old people included Summer outings, both general and in small groups, and the organising of Christmas parcels.

Four Over 60 Clubs are affiliated which cater for the more social side of the work.

A close liason is maintained with the Local Authority's Services, particularly with the Health Visitors and the Home Help Service, and with the various voluntary organisations of the district.

XIII. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Detailed information is contained in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

A. REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

1. Hospitals. There are two hospitals in the Urban District, the St. Nicholas Hospital for the treatment of mental disorders and the Sanderson Orthopaedic Hospital for the treatment of children.

2. Tuberculosis Service. Patients attend the Chest Clinic, New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, under the care of the Senior Chest Physician, Dr. Verity.

Treatment is provided in the various sanatoria of the Region, at Walker Gate Hospital, or at the Children's Hospital, Stannington, as required.

B. LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES. Services (3) (4) (5) (6) and (7) and the care of the buildings in Section (2) are administered by the South Area Health Sub-Committee of the Northumberland County Council.

1. Home Nursing and Midwifery. There are three district midwives serving the Urban District, two of whom are resident in Gosforth and one in Fawdon.

The general nursing is carried out by three nurses, two resident in Gosforth and one in Brunton Park. Mr. Ward of 57 Halton Drive, Woodlands Park, telephone Wideopen 2484, carries out male nursing for the County.

2. Maternity and Child Welfare Service. The Clinic at Church Road serves the whole of the district, regular sessions being held for the care of babies, children and expectant mothers, relaxation classes, dental treatment, speech therapy, orthopaedic consultations, the treatment of eye defects and skin diseases, and for other special groups such as vaccination and immunisation sessions for children and adults. The scope of services at this clinic has very considerably extended during the last few years.

In January, 1961, a new wing at the east end of the clinic was commenced to provide a new dental room, food room and perambulator shelter. Alterations to the hall to provide a waiting room for ante-natal patients together with some minor alterations were also commenced.

Alternative accommodation was found for the holding of sessions as the whole clinic had to be evacuated during the reconstruction. Sessions at the clinic were resumed on the 26th June on completion of the extensions and alterations.

The building of a new clinic at Brunton Park was commenced during the year.

3. Ambulance Service. Gosforth is served by ambulances of the Wideopen Depot which is situated three miles to the North and is the largest depot in the County. A Driver Supervisor is in control with sixteen driver attendants and four radio control assistants working on a 24 hour basis. All calls between 4 p.m. and 8 a.m., on weekdays and from noon on Saturdays to 8 a.m., on Monday from the whole of the southern part of the County are received at Wideopen and relayed to the eight sub-stations.

In 1961 two motor mechanics were employed under a foreman charge hand to do maintenance and servicing of the Wideopen ambulances and of some other depots together with certain repair work.

In the course of the year Wideopen ambulances which cover the Urban Districts of Gosforth and Longbenton and adjacent parts of Castle Ward made 7796 (7091) journeys, carried 26,772 (23,520) patients, including 666 (794) accident and emergency cases and 3674 (3837) stretcher cases and did a mileage of 194,306 (178,922) miles. (Figures in brackets relate to 1960).

4. Immunisation and Vaccination.

Diphtheria. Immunisation against diphtheria was carried out as for many years past at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, at the schools and by the general practitioners of the district.

During the year 343 children including 330, 0-4 years and 13 5-14 years received a primary course of immunisation and 477 children received a reinforcing injection. The figures were less than those of the previous year during which 447 children received a primary course and 990 children a reinforcing injection, an intensive campaign being carried out at the schools.

The Ministry of Health discontinued the Immunity Index which had been in use since 1953.

At December 31st 1961 in the County of Northumberland 75% children of 0-4 years and 53% children of 5-14 years were immunised, compared with 65% children of 0-4 years and 52% children of 5-14 years in the country generally.

Northumberland was the fifth best County for these percentages in the country.

Whooping Cough Prophylaxis. A total of 330 (393) children received protection against whooping cough, 293 being under one year of age, the majority received the triple antigen of whooping cough, tetanus and diphtheria.

The comparative figures for the County showed that 85% children received protection up to December 31st, 1961, compared with 69% for England, Northumberland being the third best County in the country in this connection.

Tetanus. 322 (386) children received protection against tetanus, 285 being under one year of age.

The number of new births in the Urban District each year is round about 400 so that the yearly figures show that a large percentage of the children are protected.

It is now routine practise for the children under one year of age to receive the triple protection. As recently as four years ago protection against tetanus was given to only a very small number of children.

Vaccination against Smallpox. There were 245 (225) vaccinations against smallpox and 83 (64) revaccinations. There has been a steady increase in the number of vaccinations against smallpox during the last three years but the number is still small.

41% of children under one year in the County of Northumberland were vaccinated against smallpox and 40% in England. Up to December 31st 1961, Northumberland was 29th in the list of Counties. (Figures in brackets relate to 1960).

Poliomyelitis Vaccination. Vaccinations against poliomyelitis continued with vigour throughout the South Area.

At the 31st December 1961, 87% of the population of Northumberland up to 19 years of age were vaccinated compared with the national figure of 82%, the County having the 5th best figures in the country.

The response of young persons up to 26 has been rather disappointing but the following figures are given for the South area as a whole :-

Up to 29th December 1961, 23,581 children aged 6 months to 15 years, 1634 expectant mothers, 816 in other groups including general practitioners, ambulance drivers and hospital staffs, 3924 young persons aged 15 to 26 and 3410 aged 26 to 40 years, a total of 33,365 persons vaccinated.

In addition to these 26,909 third injections and 7,661 fourth injections were given to children between 5 and 12 years of age. The total number of injections was 101,300.

Mobile Unit. A mobile unit was stationed in the High Street, Gosforth, on March 9th and April 6th, 1961, for poliomyelitis vaccinations. A total of 227 persons attended.

5. Home Help Service. 274 persons (267) living in the district received the services of a home help for varying periods in the course of the year. There were 34 (22) confinements, 13 cases of acute illness, 214 (222) aged and infirm persons, 7 (8) blind, 4 (3) tubercular and two families of children to be cared for owing to illness of the mother.

The number of confinements slightly increased; there was however, a diminution in the number of old people served.

As has been stressed before, this is a particularly valuable service and close liason is maintained with other services giving help to the aged and with the hospitals and nursing services.

6. Care and After-care. As in former years regular meetings of the Gosforth and Castle Ward Sub Committee took place and aid was given in the provision of extra nourishment, clothing, payment of travelling expenses of relatives to hospital, and in suitable cases provision of comforts both to patients suffering from tuberculosis and those suffering from other lung and cardiac diseases.

7. Nursing Care Committee. The activities of this Committee continued and showed some expansion during the year. 323 (310) persons living in the Urban District were loaned nursing requisites and invalid furniture comprising 513 (504) separate articles. Invalid wheel chairs were loaned to 20 (19) persons.

The stock of nursing requisites and invalid furniture is maintained by the Committee and renewed as required, additional articles being purchased when needed. The more specialised items of equipment such as those for paraplegics are provided by the South Area Sub Committee.

8. Chiropody Service. The arrangements for the provision of a chiropody service for the handicapped, and expectant mothers, which were provided in July 1960, continued throughout the year. The service is available to the elderly in districts where facilities are not being provided by the Old Peoples's Voluntary Committee. Arrangements can be made for domiciliary visits where necessary and appointments made through the health visitors.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.Particulars of District.

Area	1739 acres
Registrar General's estimated population	26,600
Number of inhabited houses according to rate book at 31st March, 1961	8621
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£1,521. 14. 4
Rateable value at 31st March, 1961	£373,721.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live births (legitimate)	210	177	383
Live births (illegitimate)	7	8	15
Still births	4	5	9
Deaths	180	199	379
Birth rate per 1,000 population			16.0
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births			21.9
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			12.5

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

None

Death rate of infants under 1 year

All infants per 1,000 live births	17.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	12.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live births	5.0

Deaths.

Deaths from Malignant Diseases (all ages)	53
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)	1

CAUSES OF DEATH(taken from the Registrar General's Return).

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females</u>
All causes	180 (39)	199 (55)
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	2
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	1 (1)	1 (1)
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infection	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5 (2)	5
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8 (1)	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2 (1)
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	8	17 (1)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
Diabetes	2	2 (1)
Vascular lesions of nervous system	25 (9)	31 (8)
Coronary disease, angina	38 (1)	41 (3)
Hypertension with heart disease	4 (1)	3 (1)
Other heart disease	35 (14)	40 (24)
Other circulatory disease	6	4
Influenza	-	1
Pneumonia	6	12 (8)
Bronchitis	14 (2)	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	2 (1)	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	2 (2)	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	3	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8 (2)	13 (2)
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-
All other accidents	6 (3)	10 (5)
Suicide	-	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	-

TABLE OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS
(1942-1961) compared with rates for England and Wales.

General Deaths Rate.			Infant Mortality Rate		Birth Rate.	
Gosforth	England & Wales.		Gosforth	England & Wales	Gosforth	England & Wales
1942	9.47	11.6	13.6	49	14.4	16.3
1943	10.7	12.1	24.1	49	16.4	17.0
1944	10.7	11.6	29.6	46	18.2	18.1
1945	13.1	11.4	36.2	46	16.0	16.5
1946	10.6	11.5	22.8	43	17.6	19.6
1947	9.1	12.0	23.6	41	18.7	21.0
1948	9.9	10.8	24.7	34	16.7	18.3
1949	9.9	11.7	28.8	32	15.7	16.7
1950	13.1	11.6	11.4	29.8	14.5	15.8
1951	11.1	12.5	25.2	29.6	14.5	15.5
1952	9.2	11.3	24.9	27.6	14.6	15.3
1953	14.1	11.4	16.1	26.8	14.1	15.5
1954	13.5	11.3	35.1	25.5	15.3	15.2
1955	15.7	11.7	28.7	24.9	17.2	15.3
1956	11.2	11.7	14.4	23.8	17.0	15.7
1957	12.7	11.5	11.2	23.0	15.1	16.1
1958	11.1	11.7	10.7	22.5	15.4	16.4
1959	10.8	11.6	22.9	22.0	17.8	16.5
1960	12.3	11.5	12.3	21.7	16.3	17.1
1961	12.5	12.0	17.4	21.4	16.0	17.4

INFANT MORTALITY.

Cerebral Haemorrhage	17 mins
Hyperplasia of lungs, prematurity	1 hour
Cerebral haemorrhage, prematurity	1 hour
Prematurity, breach labour	8 hours
Ful. haemorrhage, prematurity	1 day
Prematurity	6 days
Spina bifida and Hydrocephalus	3 months

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

The table on page 24 gives the number and age groups of the cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Cases requiring hospital treatment and isolation are removed to the Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Walkergate. This hospital is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

Appended is a summary of Bacteriological reports received from the Public Health Laboratory Service, Newcastle General Hospital, on specimens submitted by local medical practitioners and by the Health Department.

	<u>Positive.</u>	<u>Negative.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Throat swabs for Haemolytic			
Streptococci	45 6	12	18
Throat swabs for Diphtheria	-	17	17
Throat swabs for organisms of			
Vincent's Angina	-	5	5
Specimens of faeces for pathogenic			
organisms	57	113	170
Throat swab for Coagulase positive			
staphylococci	1	-	1
Specimens of sputum for Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Sugar Cigarettes for Bacteriological			
Aerogenes	1	3	4
	66	150	216

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Table of cases notified in the Urban District during 1961, set out in age groups.

	At all ages.	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & over
Scarlet Fever	10	-	1	-	3	-	5	-	-	1	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	19	2	2	3	1	1	10	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	467	10	52	67	61	57	213	5	1	-	1	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	18	-	-	2	1	2	5	1	1	6	-	-
Meningococcal Infect.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prophylaxis	13	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	3	5
Erysipelas	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	532	12	56	72	67	61	234	6	2	11	5	6

FOOD POISONING RETURN, 1961.

Food Poisoning Notifications (corrected) as returned to the Registrar General.

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Cases otherwise ascertained.

Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
-----	-----	-----	-----

Symptomless Excreters.

Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
-----	-----	-----	-----

Particulars of outbreaks.

Nil

Single Cases.

Nil

Salmonella Infections, not food borne.

Salmonella (type)	Outbreaks.		No. of cases (Outbreaks)	Single cases	Total No. of cases (out- breaks and single cases)
	Family	Other			
S. Paratyphoid B	1	-	-	2 & 1 positive ex- creter. (One case of the 2 was notified in Newcastle, but resident in the district.	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIOD	<u>NEW CASES.</u>		<u>Non-respiratory</u>		<u>DEATHS.</u>			
	Respiratory. Male	Female	Male	Female	Respiratory Male	Female	Non-respiratory Male	Non-respiratory Female
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-10 years	-	-	- + (1 I.T)	-	-	-	-	-
10-15 years	1	-	- + (1 I.T)	-	-	-	-	-
15-20 years	-	1	-	- + (1 R.R)	-	-	-	-
20-25 years	- + (1 I.T)	1 + (1 I.T)	-	2	-	-	-	-
25-35 years	1 + (3 I.T)	2 + (3 I.T)	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45 years	1 + (1 I.T)	1 + (1 I.T)	1	-	-	-	-	-
45-55 years	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-65 years	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 and over	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
	7 + (5 I.T)	9 + (5 I.T)	1 + (2 I.T)	2 + (1 R.R)	-	2	-	-

I.T. Inward Transfer
R.R. Returned to Register.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS FOR RECENT YEARS.

New cases on the register (including inward transfers)				Deaths			No. on register at end of year.		
Year	Pulmonary		Tot.	Non-pulmonary		Tot.	Pulmonary		Tot.
	M.	F.		M.	F.		M.	F.	
1947	11	7	18	1	4	5	52	36	88
1948	12	13	25	5	8	13	40	30	70
1949	22	17	39	4	3	7	55	38	93
1950	16	11	27	9	3	12	59	45	104
1951	22	9	31	4	1	5	74	47	121
1952	17	17	34	3	1	4	83	61	144
1953	11	17	28	9	1	10	82	72	154
1954	27	15	42	2	1	3	104	77	181
1955	19	20	39	4	1	5	113	84	197
1956	16	13	29	2	1	3	121	92	213
1957	16	12	28	2	1	3	125	98	223
1958	18	14	32	1	1	2	134	95	229
1959	21	11	32	2	1	3	142	98	240
1960	17	11	28	1	1	2	142	94	236
1961	12	14	26	3	3	6	142	96	238

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER, 1961.

Quarter ended		No. of cases on register at commencement of quarter		No. of cases notified for the first time		No. of cases removed from register.		No. of cases remaining	
		Pul.	Non-pul	Pul.	Non-pul	Pul.	Non-pul	Pul.	Non-pul
31st Mar. 1961	Males	142	13	3	1	3	-	142	14
	Females	94	19	2	1	3	-	93	20
30th June, 1961	Males	142	14	3	-	3	2	142	12
	Females	93	20	5	1	1	-	97	21
30th Sept. 1961	Males	142	12	4	-	6	1	140	12
	Females	97	21	2	2	2	-	97	23
31st Dec. 1961	Males	140	12	3	2	1	-	142	14
	Females	97	23	2	-	3	1	96	22

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1961.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me very great pleasure to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ended the 31st December 1961.

In the introductory remarks to my report for 1960, I referred to the vacancy in the department caused by the departure of Mr. Davison, who left to take up a similar appointment with the Borough of Whitley Bay.

The vacancy remained unfilled until the 1st June 1961, when Mr. Neil Scott was appointed Additional Public Health Inspector. Mr. Scott had just returned from Tanganyika after a 3 year tour where he held a similar appointment. It will be remembered that he was employed by this Council from the 18th November 1957 to 25th April 1958.

Once again I extend a sincere welcome to Mr. Scott and trust that he will soon settle down, and be happy in the service of this Council.

Despite the lack of staff I think I can state with all due modesty that the amount of work accomplished during the year was not inconsiderable. Not unnaturally, routine work suffered to some extent.

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the district has a piped water supply provided by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

I am again indebted to the General Manager and Engineer, and also to the Chief Chemist for supplying me with the following details relating to the bacteriological and chemical examination of samples of filtered and chlorinated water taken at the Whittle Dene and Throckley Plants.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

The total number of samples examined was 1239.

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Excellent	1214	98.0
Satisfactory	22	1.8
Suspicious	3	0.2
Unsatisfactory	NIL	NIL

TYPICAL RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF FILTERED WATERS.

	<u>Max.</u>	<u>Min.</u>	<u>Mean.</u>
pH Value	7.7	6.8	7.2
Free CO ₂	16	2	6
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	140	50	84
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)			
Total	194	92	138
Carbonate	140	50	84
Non-Carbonate	108	28	54
Calcium	176	66	112
Magnesium	60	16	26
Chlorides (as Cl)	17	9	12
Sulphates (as SO ₄)	72	18	46
Silica (as SiO ₂)	4.2	0.8	2.4
Fluorides (as F)	0.3	0.1	0.2
Iron (as Fe)	0.25	0.01	0.07
Manganese (as Mn)	0.05	0.01	0.01
Free & Saline Ammonia (as N)	0.23	0.04	0.12
Albuminoid Ammonia (as N)	0.20	0.01	0.09
Nitrates (as N)	2.0	0.1	0.8
Oxygen absorbed			
from permanganate	3.4	1.0	2.0
Dissolved Solids	280	130	210

Chemical results in milligrams per litre.

NOTES.

1. Over much of the distribution system the water is a blend of the products of the principal treatment plants.
2. These plants in turn receive water in variable proportions from the several sources utilized by the Company.
3. It is therefore difficult to predict the composition of the supply to any particular point and the maxima and minima quoted are not to be regarded as absolute values but rather as limits not likely to be exceeded in normal circumstances.

DRAINAGE SYSTEMS AND DRAIN TESTING.

A total of nearly four hundred and fifty visits were made in connection with drain testing and dealing with queries relative to the lay-out of such systems.

Two hundred and fifty-nine water tests were carried out, covering just over five thousand yards, and one hundred smoke tests were applied.

The bulk of this work was mainly associated with the construction of new dwelling-houses, and the construction of two new schools.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Refuse Collection:-

Generally speaking, with certain exceptions, I have been able to maintain a weekly collection of refuse throughout the district. The exception being periods following public holidays or during a period when staff shortages have occurred. The position has been further aggravated by reason of the fact that a shorter working week came into operation on the 2nd January 1961. It must also be appreciated that the number of premises continues to increase; there are now nearly four hundred houses on the Fawdon Farm Estate. To meet this situation the "spare" wagon has been brought into more continuous service.

Another factor to be borne in mind is the sickness rate among the collecting staff. During the year ended 31st March, 1962, some 1988 man-hours were lost representing approximately £484.

Refuse Disposal.

During the whole of the financial year, over which my costs are based, the Benton Tip, situated in the Urban District of Longbenton continued to be the main disposal point. From Gosforth alone, 3550 loads of refuse were deposited, representing an estimated tonnage of 13308 tons, an increase of 858 tons over the previous year.

The expenditure incurred in the disposal of the refuse is equally borne by the Longbenton and Gosforth Councils.

Once again it is my pleasure and privilege to voice on your behalf our sincere thanks to the Chairman and members of the Longbenton Council for continuing to provide to this Council facilities for the disposal of refuse. In this particular regard I would also like to mention Mr. Lockey, Senior Public Health Inspector to the Longbenton Council.

Salvage Disposal.

The quantity of waste paper forwarded to the Board Mills during the financial year ended the 31st March 1962, was 326 tons, a decrease of 44 tons over the previous financial year.

The figure of 326 tons represents 1.02 tons per month per 1000 population and realised an income of £2755, a decrease of £220 over the previous year.

The tonnage of the various grades of waste paper forwarded to the Board Mills and the income received from the sale thereof is as follows:-

<u>Grade.</u>	<u>Weight.</u>			<u>Income.</u>		
	T.	C.	Q.	£.	s.	d.
Mixed Paper	185	11	1	1484	10	0
Fibre Board	45	12	2	467	12	11
Newsprint	95	9	2	803	0	3
	<u>326</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>£ 2755</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>

Costing Returns (1961-62)

At the time of compiling this report the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's Manual on Public Cleansing Costing Returns for the 1961-62 financial year in respect of the larger urban areas in England and Wales was not available. Consequently I was not able to compare the costs of this Authority with Authorities of comparable population for this particular year.

The cost appertaining to this district and relating to 1000 of population and per 1000 premises is described below and for the sake of comparison I have again covered a period of four years. I have also included similar costs relating to districts with a population range of under 30000 so far as the figures are available.

Per 1000 of population

	1958/59 £	1959/60 £	1960/61 £	1961/62 £
Gosforth U.D.C.	591	622	622	705
Other Authorities	611	636	677	-

<u>Per 1000 premises</u>	1958/59 £	1959/60 £	1960/61 £	1961/62 £
Gosforth U.D.C.	1658	1734	1792	2000
Other Authorities	1892	1903	2071	-

The above figures demonstrate once again that our costs compare most favourably with Authorities of comparable population.

It is interesting to note that the average net costs per ton, collection and disposal, for Authorities who weigh 80% or more of their refuse, was 59/4d., as against 40/9d., per ton, for Authorities who weigh less than 80% of their refuse.

The returns have again shown that there is a tendency to overestimate tonnages, and thus obscure the true unit costs.

The expenditure of all local Authorities in England and Wales falling on public funds in 1959-60, in respect of refuse collection and disposal was £33 million, an increase of £1 million over the previous year.

Staff.

It was with deep regret that I had to announce the death of Mr. T. Cusack, who died on the 16th May 1961, after a short illness.

Mr. Cusack who had been in the service of this Council for approximately 34 years, was appointed foreman in the Health Department in October 1960. He was an extremely capable and conscientious workman, and his passing was deeply regretted.

The successor to Mr. Cusack was Mr. A. Bishton, who has been in the service of this Council for 28 years. Like his predecessor Mr. Bishton is a very capable and conscientious workman and I wish him well in his new appointment.

In concluding this section of my report I would like to pay tribute to the outside staff for their worthy efforts during the year.

COST STATEMENT 1961 - 62

Item	Particulars	Collection	Disposal	Totals	Percentage of total gross expenditure
	1	2	3	4	5
	<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u> (note (a))	£	£	£	%
1	GROSS EXPENDITURE:				
	(i) Labour (note (b))	11304	1566	12870	59.8
	(ii) Transport (note (c))	5306	1682	6988	32.4
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings (note (d))	116	34	150	.7
	(iv) Other items (note (e))	245	1285	1530	7.1
	(v) Total gross expenditure	16971	4567	21538	100
2	GROSS INCOME (note (f))	25	2755	2780	-
3	NET COST	16946	1812	18758	-
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above) (note (g))	-	-	-	
	UNIT COSTS (note (h))	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only	16. 7.	2. 3.	18. 10	
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only	7. 9.	2. 6.	10. 3	
7	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	24. 10.	2. 8.	27. 6	
		£	£	£	
8	Net cost per 1,000 population	637	68	705	
9	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1807	193	2000	

OPERATIONAL-STATISTICS

10. Area (statute acres) - land and inland water1739..acres
 11. Population at 30th June, 1961 (Registrar-General's Estimate)...26600..persons
 12. Total refuse collected (tons) (Estimated weighings)13634.....
 13. Weight (cwts) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year).....28.1.cwts.
 14. Number of premises from which refuse is collected9375.premises
 15. Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly....100.%.of.total
 16. Average haul, single journey, to final disposal point
 (including -- miles by secondary transport)4...miles
 17. Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total
 collectionNIL.....
 18. Total refuse disposed of (of which NIL tons were disposed of
 for other local authorities)13634...tons
 19. Methods of disposal (Salvage excluded):
 (a) Crude tipping%..
 (b) Controlled tipping100...%..
 (c) Direct incineration%..
 (d) Separation and incineration%..
 (e) Other methods (state nature)%..
 20. Salvage. Analysis of income and tonnage: 100 %

	Income (Included in Item 2)	Tonnage Collected (Included in Item 12)
	£	Tons
(a) Raw Kitchen Waste (note (a))	-	-
(b) Scrap Metal.....	-	-
(c) Waste Paper	2755	326
(d) Other Salvage	-	-
(e) Totals	2755	326

NOTES

- (a) Comprising the expenditure directly attributable to the service, including sums paid to other local authorities. Excluding all expenditure and income arising from the operation of kitchen waste processing plant but including expenditure on normal collection of raw kitchen waste and (against Items 2 and 20 (a)) an appropriate amount of income corresponding to its sale.
- (b) "Labour" means all employees other than clerical staff, drivers and mechanics. Expenditure includes holiday and sick pay, bonus payments, all superannuation charges, employer's contributions to national insurance and the cost of protective clothing and uniforms.
- (c) Transport means all types of vehicles and expenditure includes running and maintenance costs, wages of drivers and mechanics and other revenue expenses (including loan charges).
- (d) Including running costs, maintenance expenses, loan charges and all sums charged to revenue account in respect of the provision or renewal of buildings, plant, dustbins, etc. Costs of war damage repairs should be excluded.
- (e) Including salaries and wages not already mentioned, payments to other local authorities for collection and/or disposal of refuse and payments to contractors. Excluding all administration and office expenses. No part of the Chief Officer's salary should be included.
- (f) To ensure statistical uniformity all salvage income (except raw kitchen waste) should be credited to Disposal. Trade refuse collection income should be credited two-thirds to Collection and one-third to Disposal. Income from raw kitchen waste should be credited to the account which bears the cost of its collection.
- (g) Item 4 excludes and Item 1 includes loan charges and contributions to depreciation funds.
- (h) Gross unit costs of collection and disposal should be based on the tonnages shown at Items 12 and 18 respectively but the net cost of disposal should be based on the tonnage of the Council's own refuse, i.e. excluding refuse received from other local authorities.

Housing.

In July 1955, one hundred and seventeen dwelling-houses, being houses classified as likely to be included in a slum clearance programme, were submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

At the end of 1961, forty two dwelling-houses remained to be dealt with, and these were made up as follows:-

John Street South	10	North and South Cross Street	2
Streatlam Terrace	14	Back Hedley Street	2
Bowes Street	14		

During the year the Council resolved to proceed to declare West Street, comprising five houses, a clearance area. It was also resolved to amend the current slum clearance programme from five years to three years.

During the year the Minister confirmed a Clearance Order in respect of Wardle Street comprising seven houses.

There exists in the district a considerable number of houses which are old, but nevertheless structurally sound. I am of the opinion that the majority of these houses with the aid of an Improvement Grant could be developed into well-lighted and well-ventilated houses, possessing modern amenities, which most of them are lacking, such as constant supplies of hot water, baths, interior sanitary accommodation, adequate ventilated food storage and having proper facilities for the preparation and cooking of food.

I am informed by the Engineer and Surveyor that during the year the number of separate houses for which grants have been made was eleven. The total to date, being eighteen.

It would appear that throughout the country only a small proportion of improvements grants have been made in respect of rented houses. The present time therefore would appear to be opportune to apply some form of compulsory improvement.

The General Council of my own Association in their paper on "Progress in Housing" suggested that local authorities should have power to declare "improvement areas", following a procedure similar to that used in the declaration of clearance areas.

Housing Statistics.New Houses completed during the year.

(a) By Local Authority	72
(b) By private persons	89

Closing and Demolition.

Houses demolished in Clearance Areas.	12
---------------------------------------	----

Unfit Houses made fit.

(a) After informal action by Local Authority	27
(b) After formal action by Local Authority	7

The Rent Act, 1957.

During the year only three applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received, and in no instance was it found necessary to issue a Certificate. Undertakings were given by the landlord in two instances, and eventually, in all three instances, the items of disrepair as originally set out on Form G, were fully remedied.

Every assistance has been given to tenants in connection with the operation of the Act, but it would appear that for one reason or another, probably due to the protracted procedure involved, the Act has not proved very popular.

Rodent Infestation.

During the year eighty-six complaints were received, as against eighty-nine the previous year.

The premises involved being one hundred and forty private dwellings and six business premises, incurring a total of six hundred and seventy-three visits.

Primary inspections revealed that thirty-nine of the private dwellings were infested with mice, and sixty-four private dwellings infested with rats. Of the six business premises, one was found to be infested with mice and five infested with rats. No evidence of either rats or mice could be found in the remaining thirty-seven private dwellings.

No major infestations were encountered in either private dwellings or business premises, and the infestations were found to be fairly well scattered throughout the district.

As in previous years the rodenticide Warfarin with a bait-base of oatmeal was used, with effective results.

Sewer Maintenance Treatment.

During the year one treatment was carried out details of which are set out below.

Treatment No.	No. of Manholes Treated.	Poison Takes.	
		Partial.	Complete.
1	135	2	1

Disinfestation.

The number of complaints received in this particular connection was not far removed from that received last year, 39 as against 37.

As in previous years, the range of insects dealt with was rather numerous and in one instance included the bed-bug. The premises concerned was adequately and properly treated, which treatment included the removal of picture rails and architraves. Revisits were made to ensure the complete eradication of this insect.

Apart from the cockroach, which again was the most troublesome of the insects dealt with, a considerable amount of trouble was also experienced with wasps nests. Complete success was achieved in the destruction of these nests by the use of 50% D.D.T. dust.

Shops Act, 1950.

A total of well over three hundred visits were made to the various shops in the district, arising out of which, it was found necessary to serve several informal notices. These notices related to (a) the provision of suitable and sufficient facilities for the taking of meals (b) the provision and maintenance of suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences (c) seats for female assistants.

It is to be regretted that it is not possible to record any further progress in the matter concerning the bringing of the mobile trader within the scope of the Shops Act. Apparently the issue is a much more complicated one, than merely making an amendment to the present Act.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960.

This Act came into operation on the 27th November 1960, and I thought it would not be remiss of me to refer once again to the salient features of the Act.

Subject to the provisions of Section 1 of the Act, noise or vibration which is a nuisance shall be a statutory nuisance for the purposes of Part III of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the provisions of that Act shall have effect accordingly as if subsection (1) to (4) of this section were provisions of the said Part III.

In the case of noise or vibration caused in the course of a trade or business, it is a defence in any proceedings to show that the best practicable means have been used for preventing it, and counteracting its effect.

Section 2 of the Act deals with the use of loudspeakers in streets. The Act prohibits their use for any purpose between 9.0 p.m. and 8.0 a.m. (except in special circumstances), and at any other time for advertising any trade, business or entertainment, with the exception that between noon and 7.0 p.m. a loudspeaker fixed to a vehicle used for the sale of perishable foodstuffs may be operated to announce that the commodities are on sale; the loudspeaker is however not to be so operated as to give reasonable cause for annoyance to persons in the vicinity.

During the year two complaints were received alleging nuisance from noise.

The first complaint was concerned with the emission of noise from a factory, which it was alleged, was causing a nuisance to nearby residents.

On enquiry it was found that the noise was caused by a waste oil burner, used as a supplementary means of heating the premises. It appears that the burner was not in a sound condition, and on being replaced by a brand new burner, no further complaints were received.

Complaint number two was laid by several flat dwellers alleging a noise nuisance created on the premises of a social club. One of their main grievances was that the noise was prejudicial to health inasmuch as they were being deprived of a "normal nights' rest."

On investigation it was found that the noise resulted from the operation of a generator in the beer cellar cooling system.

It was felt that if the generator could be "shut-down" during the hours of say 11.0 p.m. and 8.0 a.m. then it could be accepted that the proprietors of the club had used the best practicable means for preventing the noise, and counteracting its effect. To ensure the "shut-down", it was also felt that an electric operated time-switch should be incorporated in the system.

This suggestion, placed before the Secretary of the Club, was readily agreed to and acted upon, and no further complaints were received.

The Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

The objects of this Act which came into operation on the 5th July 1956, are to secure the safety, health and welfare of persons engaged in the agricultural industry.

"Agriculture" is defined as including dairy-farming, the production of any consumable produce which is grown for sale or for consumption or other use, for the purposes of a trade or business, or any other undertaking (whether carried on for profit or not); it also includes inter alia, the use of land for market gardens or nursery grounds.

The provisions of the Act which are the concern of this authority, states, that if suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences are not already provided or if provided they are not properly maintained for workers on an Agricultural Unit the Local Authority may by Notice require that they be provided or properly maintained as the case may be. A similar power is given to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in respect of suitable and sufficient washing facilities.

There are four premises in the district which come within the scope of the Act, one farm and three nurseries, employing among them, five females and twenty-one males.

Suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences were found to be provided for the workers, but in two cases it was found necessary to serve notices relating to the conveniences not being properly maintained and kept clean.

Factories Act, 1937 to 1959.

During the year our list of factories in the district was compared with the list kept by H.M. Inspector of Factories. The result showed no great change in the number of factories "where mechanical power was used", but the change was quite significant regarding factories "where mechanical power was not used." Two factors governed this change in numbers, (a) "Change of use" of the premises, and (b), reduction of number of employees on the premises.

PART 1INSPECTIONS.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	1	1	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	70	128	14	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).....	11	33	Nil	Nil
Total.....	82	162	14	Nil

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (.S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (.S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	20	20	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Total.....	20	20	1	Nil	Nil

PART VIII
(OUTWORK)

Nature of Work	Section 110		Section 111			
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosec- utions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhol- some premises	Notices Served	Prosec- utions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing } making apparel } etc. } cleaning } and } washing	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stuffed toys	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Inspection of Food and Food Premises.

Milk Supply.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1960, came into force on the 1st January, 1961, one effect of which, was to transfer the duty of issuing licences to dealers in designated milk, from the local authority to the food and drugs authority, which in the case of this authority is the County Council. The County Council also took over the duty of taking samples of milk from these dealers. Sampling of milk from producer - retailers operating in the district, remained the responsibility of your Public Health Inspector.

Milk Sampling.

Thirty-three samples of Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled) Milks were procured and submitted to the Methylene Blue keeping quality test. Thirty-two samples, representing 97% of the number submitted for examination, satisfied the test. Notwithstanding the fact that the number of Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled) milks submitted for examination has been considerably reduced, the result is most gratifying. In the last three years the corresponding percentages have been 83.3%, 69.4% and 73%.

GRADE	Methylene Blue Test.				Biological Test			
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total	% Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested (Farm Bottled)								
No. of Samples procured.	32	1	33	97.0	9	Nil	9	100.0

Ice-Cream Sampling.

During the year twenty-one samples of ice-cream were procured and submitted to the Methylene Blue test.

The following table shows the results of the examination of those samples, together with their respective gradings :-

Type of Sample		Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue	Provisional Grade.	Percentage of total.
Prewrapped	Loose			
13	4	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours or more	1	80.95
Nil	1	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 4 hours	2	4.76
Nil	1	$\frac{1}{2}$ - 2 hours	3	4.76
Nil	2	0 hours	4	9.53

It is again pleasing to record that over 85% of the samples fell into grades 1 and 2, but it is a matter of some regret that just under 15% fell into grades 3 and 4. These Grade 3 and 4 samples were obtained from a producer whose samples consistently fall into Grade 4. Over a period of three years, fourteen samples have been obtained from this producer, eight of which have fallen into Grade 4, three into Grade 3, and three into Grade 1. All the Grade 1 samples were obtained in 1959.

The Chief Public Health Inspector in whose district the ice-cream is manufactured informs me that samples obtained by his authority have also fallen into Grades 3 and 4. A full examination of the plant followed, which included taking samples at every stage of the process of manufacture. Subsequently the trouble was located at the stage where the ice-cream was conveyed from the "ageing vats" to the storage receptacles. There was also some doubt about the final handling of the commodity.

It is hoped that in the coming year we can again look forward to obtaining Grade 1 samples from this producer.

Food and Drugs Act 1955.Section 62. (Licensing of Slaughter-Houses).

There are no slaughter-houses in the district. The slaughter-house which was situated at the rear of 160 High Street, ceased to function as such at the end of March 1960.

Food Premises.

There are one hundred and seventy-three food shops in the district, details of which are shown in the following table :-

Type of Premises	No.	Type of Premises	No.
Grocers	28	Retail bakers	12
General dealers	22	Premises with 'Off-Licence'	11
Meat purveyors	22	Fishmongers & Poulterers	6
Fruiterers	17	Bakehouses	4
Licensed premises	24	Fried Fish & Chips	5
Confectioners	19	Cafes	3

Nearly five hundred visits were made to the various food shops in the district, and I am pleased to state that it was not found necessary to take any formal action under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

The standard of food hygiene in the shops remains high, although there are one or two food traders, who require constant supervision.

I think, that in this particular year, as in previous years, the achievement of success in the field of food hygiene has been obtained through the continued co-operation and support of the food traders.

During the year eighty-four notices, including reminder notices, were served upon various food traders in the district. In one instance, a second warning was issued in connection with smoking in a food room which contained open food. The warning implied that in the event of a further contravention of this nature, formal action under the Regulations would be taken.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.Section 16 (Registration of Food Premises).

During the year seven food premises were registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955. With one exception, all the registrations were in respect of the sale of ice-cream. Owing to the closing down of certain premises and a change of use occurring in others, there was a net reduction in the number of registered premises. The number now so registered stands at ninety-four, last year it was ninety-nine.

Seventy-two premises are now registered for the sale of ice-cream and twenty-six premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. It should be pointed out that four premises are registered for both purposes.

The type and number of food premises registered as aforesaid, are shown as follows :-

Type of Premises	No. Regd.	Type of Premises.	No. Regs.
General Dealers	20	Bakehouses	4
Meat Purveyors	15	Retail Bakers	7
Confectioners	15	Fruiterers	6
Grocers	18	Fishmongers	1
Fried Fish & Chips	5	'Off-licence'	3

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Section 2 (General protection for purchasers of food and drugs).

Section 8 (Sale, etc., of food unfit for human consumption)

During the year four complaints were received alleging the finding of extraneous matter in food. The complaints may be summarised as follows :-

- (a) Mouldy condition of a fruit pie.
- (b) Mouldy condition of crumpets.
- (c) Mouldy condition of sausage rolls.
- (d) Half-pint bottle of milk containing fragments of broken glass.

A warning notice was issued in connection with complaint (a) and in connection with complaints (b) and (c) legal proceedings were instituted under Section 8 of the Act. These cases were heard at the West Castle Ward Petty Sessional Court where fines of £5 plus £3 costs, and £40 (two charges) plus £9 costs, were imposed respectively.

In connection with complaint (d) it was resolved to take legal proceedings under Section 2 of the Act. At the end of the year the case had not been heard.

I thought it might be interesting to record a different type of complaint in which the complainant alleged that a pound of sausage he had purchased was of a low meat content, and further, that whereas he had asked for pork sausage he had been served with beef sausage.

The sausage was examined by the County Public Analyst whose certificate read as follows :-

'It is a sample of preserved sausage having the characteristics of pork and with the following meat content - 87% by weight'

As this percentage is 22% above the accepted minimum for pork sausage, it would appear that this sample of pork sausage was not only genuine, but of very good quality.

Unsound Food (Voluntarily Surrendered).

The following articles of food, weighing 246 pounds were examined following their voluntary surrender, and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

This food, not considered suitable for processing was destroyed in the incinerator in the Council Yard.

85 tins of Fruit	7 tins of Milk
75 " " Vegetables	4 " " Soup
42 " " Meat	2 " " Creamed Rice
11 " " Fish	15 pounds of Cheese

Adulteration of Food.

I am again indebted to Mr. C.L. Arlidge, Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures, Northumberland County Council for supplying me with details of samples taken by his sampling officers in the Urban District of Gosforth during the year under review.

Out of a total of one hundred and one samples procured, which included twenty-nine samples of milk, only three samples were reported unsatisfactory by the Public Analyst. Samples of milk were procured at two schools and found to be genuine.

Details of the unsatisfactory samples as reported by the Public Analyst are as follows :-

<u>Article.</u>	<u>Analyst's Report</u>	<u>Action Taken.</u>
Lolly Mix	Ingredients not marked on label	Labels are being amended.
French Wine Vinegar	Insufficient address on label	do
Fruit and Nut Breakfast Food.	Ingredients not marked in accordance with the Labelling of Food Order 1953.	Manufacturers have agreed to amend their label.

TABLE 1.(Complaints received and dealt with)

<u>Nature of Complaint.</u>	<u>No. of Complaints.</u>
Accumulations	8
Atmospheric Pollution	6
Dampness (Dwelling House)	11
Defective Drains	4
Defective dustbins	31
Disrepair (Dwelling House).	38
Extraneous matter in food	7
Foul Smells	11
Noise Nuisance	2
Vermin (Insects).	39
Vermin (Rats and Mice).	86
Miscellaneous	15
	<hr/>
	258
	<hr/>

TABLE 11

(Summary of Visits)

Accumulations	12
Dwelling Houses	585
Cinemas and Dance Halls	2
Ditches and Streams	16
Drainage Systems	449
Drain Test:-	
Smoke	100
Water	259
Factories (Mechanical)	128
(Non-mechanical)	34
Outworkers	16
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	86
Disinfections	1
Revisits	174
National Assistance Act	32
Rodent Infestations:-	
Rats	474
Mice	223
Refuse Collection - Supervision	510
Shops Act	331
Mobile Food Traders	5
Food Premises	480
Smoke Observations	8
Verminous Premises	175
Workplaces and Offices	20
Miscellaneous	218
	<hr/>
Total	4338

TABLE 111

(Sanitary Improvements Effected)

Ceiling Plaster repaired or renewed	5
Chimney Stacks repaired	3
Dangerous walls repaired	1
Doors repaired, rehung or renewed	12
Eaves-gutters cleaned-out, rep'd or ren'd	9
External Walls pointed	4
Fallspouts repaired or renewed	8
Firegrates repaired	2
Floors repaired, ventilated etc.	3
Roofs repaired	9
Sashcords renewed	1
Sink waste pipes renewed/repared	2
Staircase repaired	2
Wallplaster repaired or renewed	6
Walls rendered internally	4
Windows repaired; made to open	7
Yard paving repaired	1
Choked drains cleansed	4
Dustbins provided	132
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	1
W.C. structures repaired or renewed	6
Total	<u>222</u>

CONCLUSION.

In concluding my report I would like to express my sincere appreciation of the kind support I have received throughout the year from the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman of the Health Committee and from all other members of the Council. I am also conscious of the sympathetic and courteous manner in which my reports to the various committees have been received and dealt with.

May I also take this opportunity to refer to the kindly assistance afforded to me by Dr. Hopper, and to the kindness and co-operation received from the Chief Officials of the Council in connection with the many and varied matters occurring during the year.

It affords me the greatest of pleasure to place on record once more my sincere appreciation of the high standard of work carried out by Mr. Scott and the clerical staff, and pay them, yet another tribute to their accomplishments during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
GEORGE STENGER,
Senior Public Health Inspector.

